**Wheat production**

†592. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of wheat has declined constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total production of wheat during this period; and

(c) the efforts made by Government during the last three years to boost the production of wheat and the extent of success achieved by Government in these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Following table shows the production of wheat during 2004-05 to 2006-07:

| Year | Production (Million Tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 68.64 |
| 2005-06 | 69.35 |
| 2006-07* | 74.89 |

* 4th advance estimates as on 19.07.2007

The production of wheat shows an increasing trend during 2004-05 to 2006-07.

(c) In order to increase the production of wheat in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat)" with effect from October 2000 is under implementation. The States included in the scheme are Uttar Pradesh (Western), Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan. The scheme is implemented on 90:10 percentage sharing basis between Government of India and the States. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement, production of certified seeds, etc. Besides, demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers' fields on 100 per cent assistance. Due to such efforts, production of wheat has reached the level of 74.89 million tonnes during 2006-07, the highest since 2000-01.

**Biotechnology Coordination Board to monitor GM crops**

593. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the States to set up State Level Biotechnology Coordination Board to monitor the GM crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons of, if any, delays from the States in setting up of this panel;

(d) without setting up of this panel how the Central Government is going ahead to give sanction to GM crops in the respective States; and

(e) in such cases who would be the monitoring authority for the contamination and other GM crop related problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) have asked the States to set up State Level Biotechnology Coordination Committees (SBCCs) and District Level Committees (DLCs) under the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to inspect, investigate and take punitive action in case of violations of statutory provisions. As on date, 14 States have set up SBCCs and DLCs under the above mentioned Rules/Act. The MoEF has been pursuing with remaining State Governments for setting up of SBCCs & DLCs.

(d) and (e) Central Government has notified Monitoring cum Evaluation Committees (MECs) comprising multi-disciplinary expertise to monitor and evaluate the field trials of GM crops in the respective State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) under the direct supervision of Director (Research) of SAUs.

**Steps to dispose the weeds imported with American wheat**

†594. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat in quintals being imported by Government from America this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 21 types of weeds are also likely to be imported in India alongwith this imported wheat and if so, the names of such weeds;

(c) the details regarding the harms which are to be borne by the farmers of the country in their next crops due to these weeds;

(d) whether Government are going to take any effective steps to dispose of these weeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No wheat has been imported by Government from America this year.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.